

## PLAN TO CLEAR CITY OF FAKE JEWELRY SALES ROOM FRAUD

Laws Drafted in Corporation Counsel's Office Aims at Pawnbroker Sales Stores.

NO PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC

Many Now Swindled Without Redress—Regulation Would Shield the Purchasers.

Laws are being drafted in the office of the corporation counsel of the District of Columbia today to enable the Washington authorities either to clear the city of the fake jewelry auction rooms which, aided by bands and ballyhoos have sprung up overnight during the past year, or to bring the so-called "Pawn Broker Sales Stores" under strict regulation.

As soon as Congress convenes the passage of these newly drafted laws will be sought. A soon as they are on the statute books—and members of the corporation counsel's office believe their passage is only a matter of time—the clean-up will begin.

No Redress Now. In the meantime, according to Assistant Corporation Counsel Rodger Whiteford, who has been fighting the fake jewelry auctions, the most that can be done is to make the public understand that until the proper authority is given the District Commissioners to regulate these sales rooms in a manner that will protect the purchasers therefrom, those who are persuaded to buy the articles offered for sale by the leather-headed ballyhoo auctioneers, must do so with the full understanding that if they are swindled by misrepresentations, they will have to bear the loss.

Records at the District Building show that in the past fiscal year, about 20 licenses for the conduct of auction rooms in Washington were issued. It is estimated that not more than 50 per cent of these licenses were obtained by bona fide and reliable concerns. The other 50 per cent, it is said, are made up of the "fly-by-night" salesrooms.

They Swindle the Public. "The auctioneers of the stripe who are running the cheap jewelry sales stores," said Mr. Whiteford today, "come to a city overnight, rent a store, make a good 'clean-up' on the stock which they have brought here, not only taking away from reputable jewelers and auctioneers, but swindling the public."

"It is not hard from outward appearances to differentiate between the reputable auction room and the one in which a buyer lays himself open to misrepresentations. The presence of flaunting ballyhoos, the raucous cries of the salesman, and in many instances the twang of the out-of-tune piano should at least

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make the public hesitate and investigate before doing business in such a place. The recent fight of the District authorities against the places failed not for want of evidence that very often the purchasing public is made the victim of misrepresentations, but because the present statutes, do not give the Commissioners sufficient scope to permit them to draft regulations drastic enough to make the cheap and unreliable auction rooms an unprofitable business, while at the same time protecting the reputable auctioneer.

A Dangerous Loophole. According to Mr. Whiteford, one of the most dangerous loop-holes in the present law is the one which, although providing that the auctioneer must give a bond of \$2,000, fails utterly to require him to guarantee his representations under that bond. In the proposed legislation which the District government will seek at the beginning of Congress, one of the principal features will be a provision remedying this defect. It is also suggested that a paragraph prohibiting the sale of jewelry or other personal property by auction after 6 o'clock at night would go far toward ousting the unprincipled auctioneer, in as much as this type of salesman usually reaps his richest harvest from the pockets of men and women, strolling in the downtown section during the evening and enticed into his shop through the uncertain methods of cheap music and cheap comedy. The new legislation will also seek to require a Washington residence from all licensed auctioneers, a provision directed against the "fly-by-night" variety of swindler.

Would End False Bidding. Still another provision of the contemplated regulation is aimed at the system of "capping," or false bidding, of which some of the cheaper establishments here are guilty. The section dealing with this phase of the question reads: "No person or corporation offering for sale or selling any real or personal property at public auction in the District of Columbia shall, directly or indirectly, employ any person or persons for the purpose of puffing or bidding up the price of the property to be sold with no intention of purchasing the same, but with the intention of raising the price upon bona fide bidders; nor shall such person, firm, or corporation, directly or indirectly, employ any person or persons known as 'encouragers,' who, not being the criers of such property, but pretending to be bona fide bidders endeavor to induce bona fide bidders to purchase any of the property so offered at auction. No licensed auctioneer shall conduct an auction sale for any person, firm or corporation, knowing that such person, firm, or corporation, directly or indirectly employs 'puffers' or 'encouragers' in violation of this article."

Could Weed Them Out. "If Congress will give us the authority embodied in these proposed regulations," declared Mr. Whiteford, "there is no reason why in a few weeks after the regulations have gone on the books, every one of the fake jewelry auctioneers now operating in the city should not be weeded out, and weeded out in a manner which will preclude their return."

\$3.00 Atlantic City and Return July 4th \$3.00. Baltimore and Ohio from Union Station 7:15 a. m. Leave Atlantic City 6:00 p. m. same day. Similar excursions July 18, Aug. 15 and 29. Advt.

## AERO WORK PLANNED AT FORT SILL, OKLA.

Experiments by Flying Squadron From San Diego to Be Conducted.

Important aero work soon is to be undertaken by the army at Fort Sill, Okla. The War Department soon will send an aero squadron from San Diego to Fort Sill, where experiments will be conducted under field conditions. The exact number of officers and men is not stated, but there will be eight aeroplanes, about a score of active young officers who have been trained in aero work, and ninety men who also are skilled in all phases of the handling of aircraft, including construction and repair.

The squadron will be sent from San Diego to Fort Sill under conditions such as would be demanded if it were ordered to take the field. The aeroplanes will be shipped by train and so will all the appliances. The squadron will live in tents and will go through experiences such as would be demanded in wartime. High officers of the signal corps are working out the plan of the experiments. At Fort Sill, flying will be undertaken in connection with the practice of the field artillery. The aero squadron will make observations and communicate such information to the artillery in respect to ranges and the like as it would have to do in the field. The purpose of the aero experiments at Fort Sill will be to find out whether there are any shortcomings or defects in equipment, air appliances, and to afford officers and men opportunity for training to take the field.

## Lightning Tears Off His Shirt, Burns His Back

NEW YORK, July 3.—Paul Goldsmith, of Commack, L. I., and his brother, Fred took refuge from a thunderstorm under the eaves of a barn. Paul was leaning against a pillar when it was struck by lightning. The bolt slid down the post and ripped Paul's shirt off. His back was only slightly scorched. His brother was knocked unconscious, but was not burned.

## Brightwood Improvements Will Be Recommended

Recommendations for improvement in Brightwood to be made to the Commissioners were drafted at a meeting of the executive committee of the Brightwood Citizens' Association at the residence of Louis P. Shoemaker last evening. The committee was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker after the meeting.

## HIS HORSE'S HOOF MAY BE STOLEN NEXT

Thieves Have Taken Parts of Every Other Means of Conveyance Squire Owns.

NEW YORK, July 3.—It would be interesting to know whether Justice of the Peace George F. Stackpole of Riverhead, L. I., suffers from bunions or fallen arches. The Squire owns an automobile, a motor launch, a row boat, two bicycles and a horse. A week ago all were in perfect condition. Today the horse alone remains intact, but Stackpole wouldn't be surprised to find a couple of hoofs had been taken from Bucephalus. In a Riverhead paper the justice offered a reward of \$10 for the arrest of the person, who, on Wednesday night, stole two units from the coil of his automobile. Five dollars is offered for the arrest of the person who stole a coil from his livery. Finally there is an appeal for the return of at least one of the two pairs of ears taken from the rowboat he kept at the club house on the town pier.

## "Terror Island" Feature Of All-Story Weekly

"Terror Island," a title that conveys only a suspicion of the adventure of the printed lines beneath it, is the feature story in the current All-Story Weekly. Its author, Alex Shell Briscoe, begins the narrative with a chapter sub-titled "A Challenge," and the second chapter is captioned "Mysteries," both of which are only mildly suggestive of the thrills that are to be enjoyed. Oney Fred Sweet, a Western writer with a keen sense of humor, contributes the second story, a theatrical yarn that interests, and the second installment of Kendrick Seafeld's thriller, "Through Flames of Fate" follows. "With Military Honors" needs no other reference than to say it was written by Frank Condon and the same may be said of "Mr. North of Nowhere." Frank Blighton's series, "E. K. Means has a Calf," and J. U. Giesy brings to a close his delightful story entitled "The House of the Hawk." Stories by Stephen Allen Reynolds, Armiger Barclay, Chief Red Eagle and Nelle Parker Jones and eight contributions of verse complete the number.

## Transfer Offices.

The real estate firm of Gregory & Willey Co., composed of Charles N. Gregory and George R. A. Willey, have transferred their offices to 1207 H street northwest from 1419 U street northwest.

## SUMMER COURSES TO OPEN NEXT TUESDAY

Johnson-Powell Schools' Association Appropriates Funds for Classes.

Summer courses in vocational training and "coaching" classes will be inaugurated Tuesday at the Johnson-Powell Schools with funds appropriated by the Parent-Teachers' Association of the schools. The establishment of the courses and playground work was finally acted upon last night at a meeting at the Powell School. Mrs. Robert Young, president of the association, presided. She explained that the association had sufficient funds to appropriate \$200 for the courses, as suggested by Robert L. Hecox, supervising principal of the third division, public schools.

Mrs. Young reminded the members, however, that the association should have at least \$200 in its treasury at the beginning of the school season in the fall to outfit the playground organization for the winter. Thereupon the members offered to subscribe to a \$200 fund in event that the summer work caused a deficit. Following arguments by C. Melvin Sharpe, August Gutheim and others that the children in the primary grades should have the opportunity of "coaching," as well as older children, a resolution was unanimously adopted, giving Supervising Principal Hecox authority to enlist another coaching teacher if necessary. When Mr. Hecox stated that an additional appropriation of \$55 would be necessary to add the extra teacher to the faculty the following committee was named to get together the sum needed: C. Melvin Sharpe, Theodore H. Hostetter, O. T. Wright, Charles F. Freager, L. W. Little, Dr. W. T. Heyser, and Dr. J. F. Keebler. The schools will open with Miss Clara O. Brewer, principal of the Powell School; Miss Mary C. McGill, principal of the Johnson School; two playground teachers, one carpentry teacher, and one sewing and basketry teacher.

## LOCAL MENTION.

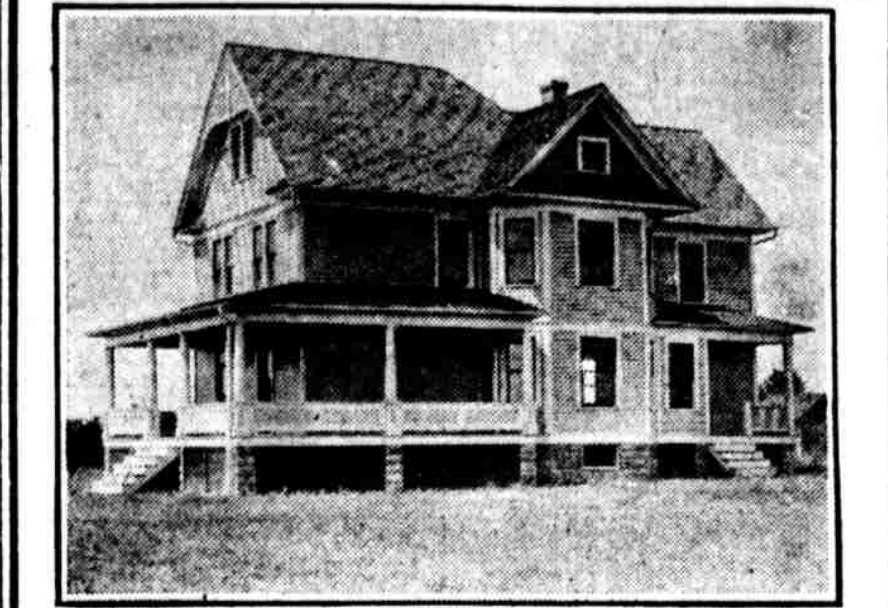
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## Fleet to Assemble at Newport After Fourth

Preliminary plans for the movements of the Atlantic fleet this summer are announced by Rear Admiral Benson, acting Secretary of the Navy. These movements will include division cruises, fleet maneuvers, and battle practice. The ships will assemble at Newport after the Fourth of July celebrations. Admiral Benson says that each of the four divisions will engage in individual cruises for perhaps a month, and in such tactical movements as may be found advisable. Afterward the fleet will assemble again at Newport or Massachusetts Bay for general maneuvers. The larger vessels will be supported in these operations by the destroyer divisions, but not by the submarines. The submarines will, for the most part, dock at the various navy yards for overhauling and for the training of their crews. It has been found necessary by the Navy Department to send practically the whole submarine fleet to the navy stations.

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Further particulars, E. L. COCKRELL, 616 E ST. N. W. PHONE MAIN 7578

# "Is England Worth It All?"

You must read THE LITERARY DIGEST of July 3d for this unique viewpoint current in England.

Since the recapture of Lemberg by the Germans, the Berlin populace, in their delirious enthusiasm, feel that Lemberg is only an incident on the triumphant march of the German hosts toward Calais, Paris, and London. THE LITERARY DIGEST presents the best and most comprehensive account of the War in both war-zones.

Another feature that will be of interest to every reader is the detailed opinion of various authorities upon how the Lusitania might have been saved, in which it is pointed out that the aeroplane has not been utilized to the extent that it should have been by the Allies for spying upon submarines.

While THE LITERARY DIGEST features the War in its various phases prominently it is also rich in features of a peaceful aspect which particularly concern the American public.

Among these may be mentioned:

- Regulating the Jitney
- End of the "Grandfather Clause"
- Pursuing Political "Higher-Ups" in Indiana
- The League to Enforce Peace
- Full Description of the Widener Library at Harvard
- The Military Officer in German Letters
- German Rejectors of "Hatred"
- Cigars Under the X-Rays

- How Summer Weather Effects the Wireless
- Food As It Concerns Personal Fitness
- Musical Sounds Translated Into Colors
- D'Annunzio As Italy's Voice of War
- The Memorial to Mrs. Wilson
- Through the Servian Inferno
- The Awakening of England
- The Czech's Aspirations
- Nervous Tension in Holland

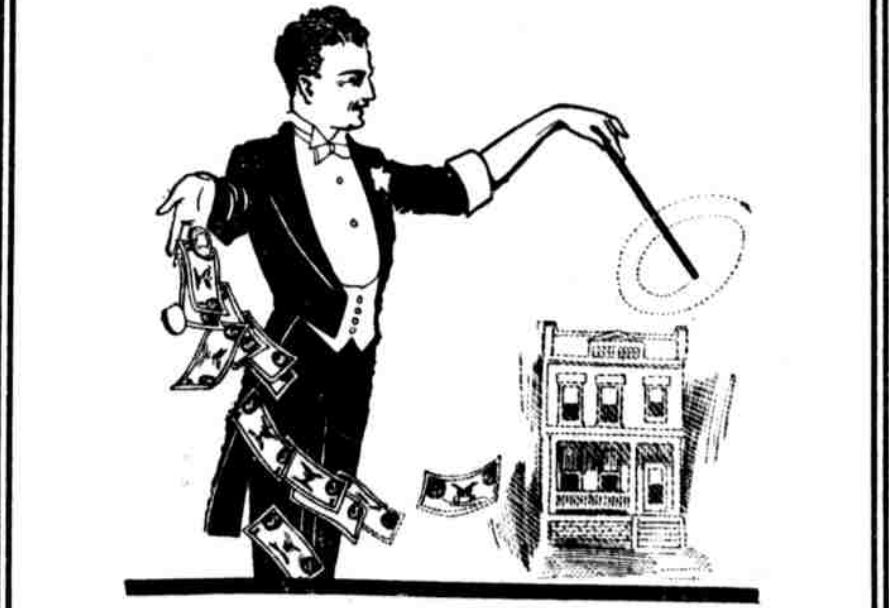
THE LITERARY DIGEST for July 3d, is, as usual, copiously illustrated with striking cartoons, photographs, and maps. Besides the features above mentioned, it contains news of interest from the fields of Science, Politics, Invention, Literature, Art, Religion, Education, Industry, Sports, Drama, that will claim the attention of the American public.

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